

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2611

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS/PFOR, NATO, XW

SUBJECT: MEETING OF NATO WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON FAR EAST

1. THERE WERE NO SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS AMONG NATO FAR EAST EXPERTS THAT SURFACED DURING MAY 5-7 MEETING. PUBLISHED REPORT WILL INCLUDE POINTS THAT: CHINA WANTS A STRONG EUROPE; THECHINESE REGARD SOVIETS AS RIVALS INSOUTHEAST ASIA AND KOREA AND FEAR SOVIETS MIGHT STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION IF CONFLICT SHOULD DEVELOP IN THOSE AREAS; KOREA IS DANGEROUS BECAUSE DIM IL-SONG MAY BE ABLE TO MANEUVER PEKING AND MOSCOW INTO PROVIDING HIM SUPPORT FOR MILITANT ACTION EVEN THOUGH NEITHER WISHES IT; SEA WILL BE SCENE OF TRANGULAR COMPTETITION BETWEEN PEKING, MOSCOW AND HANOI BUT ASEAN WILL CONTINUE TO ANT WESTERN TIES.

2. DISCUSSIONS DURING MEETINGS MADE OTHER POINTS WHICH WILL NOT BE REFLECTED IN PUBLISHED REPORT, BUT WHICH ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF INTEREST.

3. GERMAN AND ITALIAN DELEGATES INDICATED MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE STATUS OF U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS, ATTRIBUTING MORE THAN WARRANTED TO

THE DROP IN TRADE AND RECENT CANCELLATION OF VISIT OF CHINESE ARTS TROUPE. U.S. DELEGATE DESCRIBED PRESENT RELATIONSHIP IN ATTEMPT TO CORRECT MISUNDERSTANDING.

4. ITALIAN AND GERMAN DELEGATES SPECULATED THAT TENG HSIAO-P'ING AND CHOU EN-LAI WERE AT ODDS EVEN SINCE CHOU REFUSED TO DEFEND TENG AGAINST RED GUARDS AND THAT CHAIRMAN MAO HAD PROMOTED TENG TO PRESENT POSITION. FRENCH DISAGREED, SAYING TENG CLOSE TO CHOU AND ALSO TO ARMY. FRENCH SA MAO AS CONCILIATOR BETWEEN MODERATE AND RADICAL FACTIONS. BELGIAN SAID CHI TENG-KUEI WAS BITTERLY ANTI-SOVIET AND HAD BEEN PROMOTED BY MAO.

5. CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA TOLD GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN PEKING THAT CHINESE HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY UNEXPECTED VISIT OF KIM IL-SONG. GERMANS SPECULATE THAT IN RETURN FOR PROMISES NOT TO ENGAGE IN MILITANT ACTIVITIES KIM MAY HAVE OBTAINED CHINESE PROMISES OF COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN STRATEGIES AT UN.

5. GERMANS, BELGIANS AND DUTCH SEEMED EAGER TO DEVELOP RELATIONS WITH HANOI AND NEW GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON AND ARE ALSO ACTIVELY CONSIDERING GRANTING OF AID TO NEW REGIME. CANADIAN REP SAID CANADA IS NOT IN ANY HURRY TO RECOGNIZE SAIGON, NOT SEEING NEED TO GET AHEAD OF HANOI WHICH DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NEW REGIME IN SOUTH. GERMAN DELEGATE HAD IMPRESSION THAT U.S. IS ALSO ABOUT TO RECOGNIZE NEW GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON: U.S. DELEGATE CORRECTED THIS MISUNDERSTANDING. DUTCH DELEGATE NOTED THAT PRG MISSION IN PARIS APPEARED UNCERTAIN OF FORMAL NAME OF NEW GOVERNMENT IN RECENT NOTE ADDRESSED TO THE HAGUE, USING TERM "PROVISIONAL" IN ONE PARAGRAPH, BUT DROPPING IT IN ANOTHER.

7. MOST DELEGATES, EXCEPT CANADA, DISAGREED WITH U.S. DELEGATE'S CHARACTERIZATION OF "HANOI'S NEWLY WON TERRITORY", PREFERRING TO AVOID IMPLIED REFERENCE TO HANOI-PRG RELATIONS.

8. ITALIAN DELEGATE QUOTED SOVIET SOURCE WHO SAID SOVIETS OPPOSED UNION OF NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM. THE SOVIET ALLEGED THAT SOUTHERNERS ARE NOT KEEN ON ABSORPTION BY NORTH.
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9. MOST DELEGATES BELIEVED SEA COUNTRIES WILL TRY TO USE HANOI AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO CHINESE INFLUENCE IN THE AREA.

10. MOST DELEGATES EMPHASIZED DESIRABILITY OF EUROPEAN-JAPANESE CONSULTATIONS ON BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS.

11. FOR HIS PART, U.S. DELEGATE DESCRIBED RECENT CHINESE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN TERMS OF COMPROMISE AND HOLDING OPERATION AND DISCUSSED DANGEROUS SITUATION IN KOREA. HE ALSO TALKED OF VARIOUS COMMUNIST PRESSURES ON SEA COUNTRIES AND THEIR NEED FOR WESTERN SUPPORT AS THEY ADJUST TO NEW SITUATION THERE.

12. COMMENT: THE UNUSUALLY LIVELY NATURE OF THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN

NATO FAR EAST EXPERTS INDICATES POSSIBLE ENHANCED INTEREST IN EAST
ASIA ON THE PART OF ALLIES. THIS INTEREST AND POINTS OF MISUNDERSTAND
ING
REGARDING U.S. POLICY OR RELATIONS IN THE AREA INDICATE THAT
EAST ASIA MIGHT PROVIDE FRUITFUL TOPIC FOR CONSULTATIONS AT THE
REINFORCED NAC LEVEL AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE.
STREATOR

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